



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 15, 2011

Routine hydrant flushing planned... **COUNTY TO TEST WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

FREDERICK, MD – On or about April 25 and concluding April 29, the Frederick County Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management will conduct performance testing of the expanded water treatment plant located near the Potomac River along New Design Road.

The designed capacity of a water treatment plant is 25 million gallons per day (MGD), which exceeds the current daily water demand. In order to test the water treatment plant at its full capacity, water production will be slowly increased to the maximum capacity of 25 MGD. This is necessary to properly test all equipment, treatment processes and pumping systems to ensure that the water treatment plant will perform as designed.

During testing, a joint cooperative effort with The City of Frederick is planned to properly accommodate the water being produced. Water storage tank levels will be managed to allow for filling; however, in certain instances residents may notice water running from fire hydrants that are being flushed. The flushing is necessary to minimize large overflows of water from water storage tanks.

Crews will combine routine, periodic flushing required for water main maintenance with the water treatment plant testing effort to minimize the waste of water.

Most customers will not notice any changes during this period. Some customers may notice a change in water pressure or experience a discoloration of the water during this time. If cold water appears discolored before using it for cooking or laundry, citizens should not become alarmed, as this may be a result of the increased velocity of water moving through the water main. To clear the water line, they should simply run the nearest water faucet closest to the water meter for several minutes and it should clear up.

The expansion of this water treatment plant is a Frederick County project being shared between The City of Frederick pursuant to the Potomac River Water Supply Agreement executed in March 2006, along with the Fort Detrick Water Supply Agreement executed in September 2010.

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County customers who experience discoloration that does not clear up by running the tap are asked to call 301-600-1825 during normal work hours (7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) and 301-600-2194 after hours and weekends.

City customers who experience discoloration that does not clear up by running the tap are asked to call The City of Frederick main switchboard at 301-600-1440.

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